

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RESCOM NMI SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 168192

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, TQ

SUBJECT: NMI SOCIAL SECURITY

DOA NO. 329-TT

FOR CANHAM AND FACEY

DETAILED LETTER FROM OTA APPARENTLY DELAYED IN MAIL. LETTER

TO BE RESENT. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES LETTER AND AUTHORIZES
RESCOM TO PROCEED IN ESTABLISHING NMI SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

1. PROCLAMATION. RESCOM SHOULD PROCLAIM THAT, PURSUANT TO
SECTION 606(A) OF THE COVENANT, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED AS OF JAN
1, 1976 AND THAT ASSETS WERE SPLIT AS BETWEEN THE NORTHERN
MARIANA SYSTEM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY SYSTEM AS OF CLOSE OF
BUSINESS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY SYSTEM ON DECEMBER 31, 1975.
RESCOM SHOULD FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FOR THE PERIOD
JAN 1, 1976 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1976, THE OPERATIONS OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS SYSTEM (NMISS) HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY
THE TRUST TERRITORY SYSTEM (TTSS) ON AN EXPENSE REIMBURSE-
MENT BASIS. REIMBURSEMENT WILL BE MADE INCREMENTALLY AS

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ACTUAL SPLIT OF TRUST FUNDS IS EFFECTED.

2. CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FROM TTSSS. RESCOM SHOULD ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH HICOM AND TTSSS ADMINISTRATOR THAT TTSSS SHALL CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER NMISSS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 1976 ON AN EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT BASIS AS BEFORE. DURING PERIOD JULY 1, 1976 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, NMISSS ADMINISTRATOR (SEE 3, BELOW) WILL ATTEMPT TO ASSUME PART IF NOT ALL OF OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS FOR NMISSS.

3. NMISSS ADMINISTRATOR.

THAT, PURSUANT TO SOCIAL SECURITY BILL RECENTLY PASSED BY NMI LEGISLATURE AND ON RECOMMENDATION OF SSA WASHINGTON WHICH THIS CABLE CONFIRMS, RESCOM APPOINT JEROLD FACEY AS TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR OF NMISSS AND FIX HIS SALARY ACCORDING TO LOCAL AGREEMENT. RESCOM SHOULD ALSO AUTHORIZE TEMP. ADMINISTRATOR TO HIRE UP TO THREE STAFF PERSONS AT APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION LEVELS. PERMANENT ADMINISTRATOR POSITION WILL BE WORKED OUT SUBSEQUENTLY.

4. BUDGET AND OPERATING EXPENSES. THE TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD ESTABLISH A FORMAL ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE ANNUAL OPERATION OF NMISSS FOR PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 1976. THIS BUDGET SHOULD NOT EXCEED 72,100 DOLS AND SHOULD BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY RESCOM. RESCOM SHOULD AUTHORIZE TEMP. ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTRACT FOR OFFICE SPACE, NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, ETC. RESCOM SHOULD MAKE 20,000 DOLS AVAILABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR INITIAL OPERATIONS OF NMISSS. WASHINGTON LEVEL NOW ATTEMPTING DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER NMISSS OPERATIONS WILL BE FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY, NMI TRUST FUND. MAXIMUM

NMI GOVT EXPENDITURES FOR JULY 1, 1976 THRU JUNE 30, 1977, PERIOD WILL NOT EXCEED 40,000 DOLS. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT NMI TRUST FUND WILL ABSORB ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, NMI GOVT WILL BE REIMBURSED WHEN TRUST FUND SPLIT IS EFFECTED.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS COVERED BY NMISSSS. RESCOM, IN COOPERATION WITH FACEY AND OTA IF NECESSARY, SHOULD CONTINUE ON A PRIORITY BASIS THE NAME IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS TO BE COVERED BY NMI SYSTEM. GUIDELINES FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS EXERCISE INCLUDE VOTING LIST FOR COMMONWEALTH PLEBISCITE, OTHER ELECTION REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS, THE COVENANT'S CRITERIA ON "DOMICILE" AND THE PROVISIONS OF RECENTLY ENACTED NMI LEGISLATION. THIS LISTING CRITICAL FOR PURPOSES OF PAYING BENEFITS.

6. DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURE. TEMP. ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD DEVELOP A FUND DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURE FOR NMISSS ADMINI-

STRATION FUNDS WITH HQ/NMI FINANCE OFFICES. SHOULD ALSO OPEN COMMERCIAL ACCOUNT OF NO MORE THAN 100DOLS AT BA/SAIPAN FOR PURPOSE OF RECEIVING WIRE TRANSMITTED FUNDS FROM DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT IN U.S. TREASURY. THIS LOOKING FORWARD TO TIME WHEN NMISSS BEGINS DIRECT PAYMENT OF BENEFITS FROM DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT. THIS LATTER PROCEDURE HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY IRS, DEPT. OF TREASURY, SSA AND INTERIOR.

PLEASE ADVISE IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED IN FORTHCOMING LETTER.

ACTING DOTA RICE SENDS. KISSINGER

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